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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON IRAQ, APRIL 15, 2004

1. Editorial in San Pedro Sula-based liberal daily "La Prensa" on 4/15 entitled "Iraq." "The situation in Iraq has deteriorated in the last weeks, due to the uprising of several armed groups in territories controlled by Shiites and Sunnis threatens to spread the violence to the whole Iraq."

"Military actions won't lead to a rational and permanent solution if they aren't backed and strengthened by a political strategy focused on the dialogue and negotiation, to develop a process to establish a popularly-elected Iraqi government in a peaceful and safe environment."

"Our soldiers are certainly trying to help in that undertaking, but they face the risk of getting involved in the violence provoked by the religious and political extremism."

Palmer